

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 were examined by the Office, and in the Office Action of February 21, 2008 all claims are rejected. With this response claims 1, 16, 31, 39 and 46 are amended. All amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Support for the amendments can be found at least from page 9, lines 8-27 of the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following discussion.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

In section 4, on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for reciting the term "substantially." Claim 39 is amended to remove the term "substantially," and accordingly applicant respectfully submits that claim 39 is definite in view of the amendment to claim 39.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In section 6, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8, 11-12, 15-17, 19, 23-26, 30-31, 33, 35, 37-38, 40, 42 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,167,898). Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Sato, because Sato fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to recite that the notifications are distinct from the at least one communication action. In particular, claim 1 recites sending at least one communication action to a far-end party, and sending notifications in response to the at least one communication action to target devices that have members belonging to an identified communication group. Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the notifications are distinct from the communication action. In contrast to claim 1, Sato fails to disclose or suggest distinct notifications, but instead only discloses

sending the same communications to all conferees. Therefore, for at least this reason Sato fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1.

Sato is directed to a collaboration method in a peer-to-peer network, which includes sending electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, and a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from the conferee host peer to distribute data. See Sato column 2, lines 36-46. In Sato, since the peer conferees are all involved in a conference it is important that all peer conferees receive the same data or application. In contrast to Sato, claim 1 is directed to a notification method, in which when one member of a communication group is sent a communication action the remaining members are then sent notifications. It is not relevant in the present invention whether the notifications are the same as the communication action, and claim 1 is amended to specifically recite that the notifications are distinct from the communication action.

For example, with respect to sharing applications, Sato states that each conferee can send the application screen to other conferees after adding a note or free-hand drawing to the page currently displayed on the conferee's own display unit. See Sato column 13, lines 34-37. Furthermore, Sato states that pasting chats or free-hand drawings is performed by specific conferees, but the resultant screen is sent to other conferees so that conferees can share the contents of the screen. See Sato column 13, lines 51-54. Therefore, it is apparent that Sato is only directed to sharing the same content between conferees, which is in contrast to claim 1 in which notifications are sent in response to a communication action, and the notifications to group members are distinct from the communication action. In fact, since the purpose of Sato is to establish a collaborate conference; it would defeat the purpose of Sato if conferees were sent different content from one another. Therefore, for at least this reason claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Sato.

Independent claims 16, 31 and 46 are amended to include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Therefore independent claims 16, 31 and 46 are not disclosed or suggested by Sato for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

The claims rejected above and depending from the above mentioned independent claims, are not disclosed or suggested by Sato at least in view of their dependencies.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

In section 33, on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 18, 20-21, 27, 32, 34 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,241). The claims rejected above all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and Ozzie fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Sato identified with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.

In section 45, on page 9 of the Office Action, claims 10, 22, 39 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato in view of Toth et al. (U.S. Appl. Publ. No. 2005/0053068). The claims rejected above all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and Toth fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Sato identified with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.

In section 50, on page 10 of the Office Action, claims 13-14, 28-29 and 43-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sato in view of Denman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,170,863). The claims rejected above all ultimately depend from

an independent claim, and Denman fails to make up for the deficiencies in the teachings of Sato identified with respect to the independent claims. Therefore, the claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references at least in view of their dependencies.

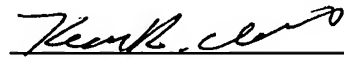
Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 23-0442 for any fee deficiency required to submit this response.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 14 May 2007

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